





THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

ERROLL ANDREW BRAGER

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

IN

PAINTING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL 2002



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TITLE

DATE

MEDIUM

SIZE

To SARA . 2002 A/C 36 "x48 "



19-30 Nov 2002

# THE WEB



Ermelie Brager  
mfa painting

Opening Reception:  
thursday, 21 nov 7:00-10:00pm

fab gallery

telephone: 780.492.2081

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# [ DEPARTMENT OF ART + DESIGN ] UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

 University of Alberta  
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This exhibition is the final  
presentation for the degree of  
master of fine arts in painting

gallery hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm  
Saturday 2pm-5pm  
closed Monday, Sunday and  
statutory holidays.

GARDEN GALLERY  
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## Artist Statement

My art is my own evolution of exploration in the artistic media of painting. My goals in my art are the conveyance and expression of spontaneous joy, freedom and inspiration. To achieve this I have developed a free and spontaneous way of applying the paint that I feel reflects my personal goals of expression. The web structure allows me to achieve this by creating shapes directly with liquefied colour paint. By manipulating the orientation of the canvas I use gravity to move the paint and the angle of the canvas to control its flow. The webbing creates a sense of history in the creation of the work and alludes to the steps taken in painting the picture. These paintings were not and could not be painted on the wall or easel; the webbing shows the passage of time and the orientation of the painting through its creation. I want my paintings to be inclusive in regards to materials and techniques. I work in a very spontaneous way and do not want to limit the materials and techniques at my disposal. I incorporate collage, stamp printing, paint skins, sand, glass, and anything else I find conducive to the spontaneous intuitive act of painting. I work in a free manner and have little prior knowledge of a paintings' outcome. To me painting is an expression of freedom, a source of hope, inspiration and joy. My art is positive and is meant to be contemplative and uplifting.

My art has evolved out of a variety of sources, primarily Matisse, Richter and Morris Louis. I have borrowed from each of these artists and worked through each of their stylistic techniques in search of my own voice. I have borrowed from Matisse the intensity and clarity of colour, and inspiration for my collage elements. Louis has been an inspiration especially in his stripe paintings. I have borrowed the fluid, organic, yet hard edge of these paintings in my approach to painting and within the web structure. In addition to these artistic influences I have received inspiration from the imagery that is seen in microbiology. Cell structures, viruses and bacteria have given me inspiration in the ways that I use paint and how I draw with it. In the end my own inspirations are of little use to the viewer. I want to leave my work open ended with a range of possible interpretations and leave the viewer free to draw their own associations.

“ I can’t go where I want, I can’t do what I want, I’ll be damned if I don’t paint what I want.” G. O’keefe



### Acknowledgements

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